



# BADGER STATE Smoke Signals



Serving Amateur Radio in Wisconsin

Published Monthly Since 1969

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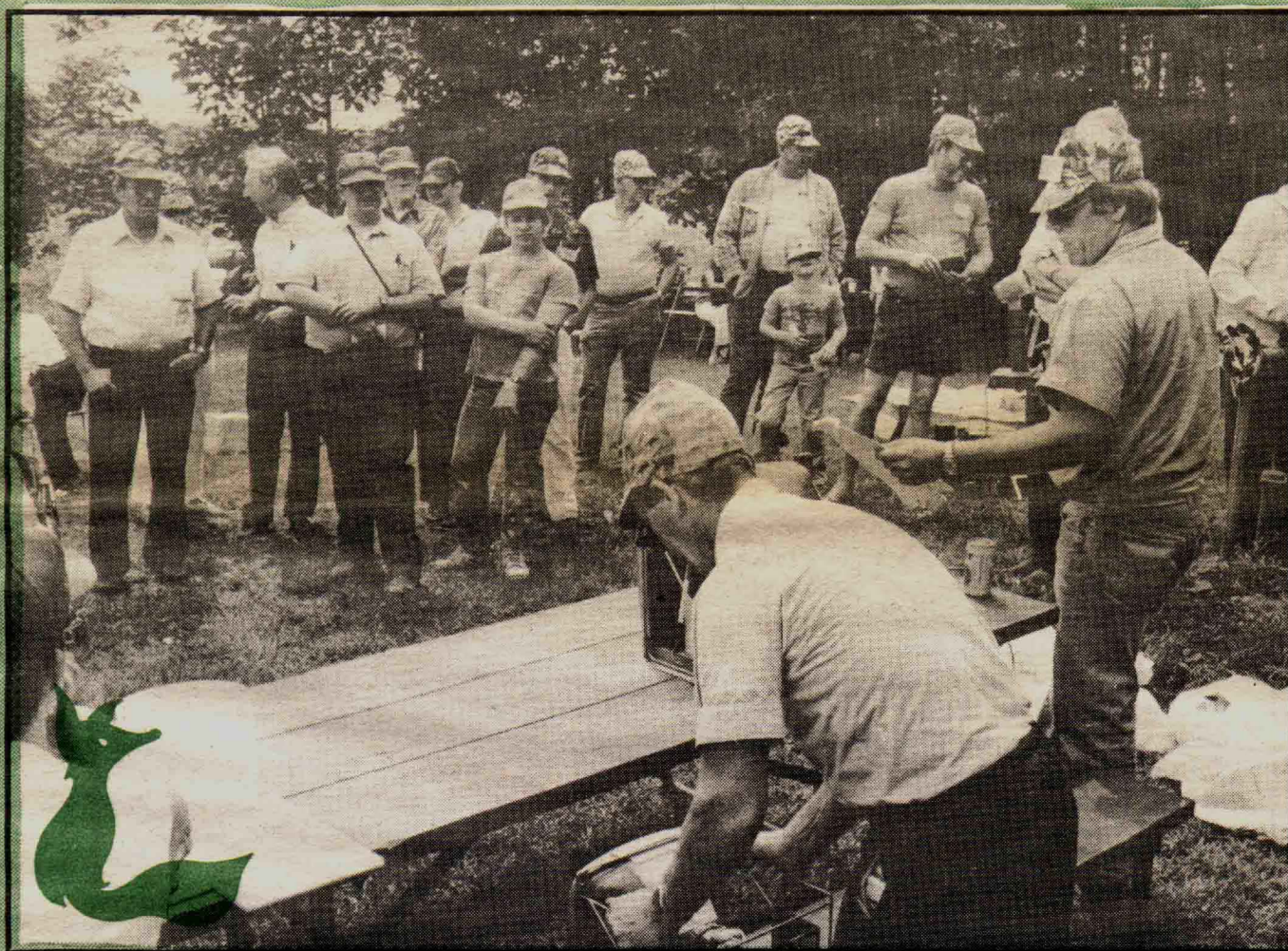
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Vol. 18 No. 10 - 214th Consecutive Monthly Issue - Baraboo, Wisconsin - October 1987

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## What Am I Bid?



About 100 Radio Amateurs, their spouses, children and friends, attended the 4th Green Fox Amateur Radio Club picnic, held August 22, 1987, in Zobel Park just north of Green Lake. In this photo, taken by Carl Plotz, Jr., WB9JSW, the auction held at the picnic is in progress. At left, behind the table, is Chuck Luyster,

KC9NH, Winneconne, readying an item for sale. At right, behind the table, Jack Bremer, KB9WC, talks up an item to the enthusiastic auction crowd. The auction sold over \$600 worth of items in about 2 1/2 hours - and everything offered was sold; nothing went into a dumpster. More info is on page 5 of this issue.

## Chicago Area Floods - Hams Plunge in to Help

Hams were swift to respond to a call for emergency communications after a record 9 inch rainfall marooned Chicago's O'Hare Airport and flooded thousands of businesses in Cook and Du Page counties in Illinois on Friday, August 14.

The Northwest ARES spent the entire weekend providing communications to the outside world for the town of Roselle after the local Illinois Bell telephone switching center's basement engineering complex filled with 11 feet of water. This knocked out the system power plant and telephone service to over 50,000 Roselle and Schaumburg customers.

Humana Hospital in Hoffman Estates lost a portion of its telephone system during the storm. The WAY-FAR repeater made its autopatch available to the hospital. It was used for both internal and external communications Friday night.

The Salt Creek in east Du Page County overflowed its banks causing the activation of the Du Page ARES, operating under the direction of the Du Page Emergency Services Disaster Administration. They utilized the facilities of the WCRA repeater for the entire weekend for various emergency related incidents.

(Continued on page 10)

## Sid Pokorny, W5UAU: Silent Key

Sid Pokorny, W5UAU, 77, died suddenly Tuesday, September 1, 1987, at his home in Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas.

First licensed in 1933 as W9NRP in Fort Atkinson, WI, Sid was a CW operator for a police radio network. From Fort Atkinson, Sid often had the strongest signal on the Wisconsin Sideband Net, even though he ran only a Heathkit HW-12 to a dipole.


Sid served as Section Communications

Manager (SCM) in Wisconsin. After moving to Arkansas, he was assigned the call sign W5UAU. He served as SCM (later known as Section Manager) for that ARRL Section from 1974 to 1981. Sid was instrumental in forming Wisconsin Chapter 55 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), and served as that chapter's first chairman. He also helped to found the Arkansas QCWA chapter. (Thanks K9YHO, K9FHL, ARRL, Bertha Pokorny.)

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Smoke Signals**  
Serving Amateur Radio in Wisconsin


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**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

1 year	(12 issues)	\$7.50
2 years	(24 issues)	\$14.00
3 years	(36 issues)	\$20.00

ADDRESS CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS should be sent to Kenneth A. Ebner, address above.

EDITORIAL MATERIAL, PHOTOGRAPHS, FEATURE ARTICLES, AND EXCHANGE PAPERS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger, address above.

DISPLAY ADS OR INQUIRIES REGARDING DISPLAY ADS should be directed to Harry Westlund, address above.

SUBSCRIPTIONS should be sent, with check or money order (do not send cash), to Jim Decker, address above.

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The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply agreement or endorsement by Badger State Smoke Signals, or any other organization.

## Swapfests and other Social Events

Sunday, October 25, 1987. Kettle Moraine Radio Amateurs Ham, Computer, and Video Fest at Waukesha, WI. Contact: KMRA, 313 Hillview Circle, Waukesha, WI 53188. (See announcement elsewhere in this issue.)

October, 31, 1987. Hamfest Minnesota & Computer Expo, Hennepin Technical Centers/North Campus, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park, MN (I-64 & County Rd. 18). Sponsored by Twin Cities FM Club. Tickets: \$3.50 in advance; \$4.50 at door. For info, write Box 726, St. Louis Park, MN 55426.

Sunday, November 1, 1987. Late Fall Hamfest at the Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL.

Contact CAT, 637 Emerald St., Mundelein, IL, 60060

November 7, 1987. AMSAT, 5th Annual General Meeting and Space Symposium, Southfield MI. Contact: AMSAT, P.O. Box 1091, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1091

Saturday, November 14, 1987. The Milwaukee Repeater Club is proud to sponsor the 3rd annual "6.91 Friendly Fest" from 8AM to 1PM (sellers admitted at 7AM), at the newly-expanded Serb Hall, 51st & Oklahoma Ave. The selling halls will be located entirely on the ground floor with easy access so, rain or shine, gather up your swapfest bargains and come share our famous Milwaukee hospitality. Tickets are just \$3, four-foot tables for \$4. To save \$1 per ticket or table, send SASE with payment to The Milwaukee Repeater Club, P.O. Box 2123, Milwaukee, WI 53201, before November 7, 1987. Talk-in on 146.91 (The Friendly Repeater) and on 146.52. On-site Amateur Exams.

Sunday, November 15, 1987. 1987 Rockford Hamfest and Illinois ARRL Convention at Rockford, IL. Tickets \$3.00 advance or \$4.00 at the door. 8' table with 2 chairs, \$5.00. Outdoor space, \$2.00. For advance tickets send SASE to Rockford Hamfest, 6514 Swansdown Dr., Rockford, IL 61111. For Booth and Table reservations send SASE to Roger Sawvell, KD9MQ, 6514 Swansdown Dr. Rockford, IL 61111, or call: 815-282-1283

January 9, 1988. The original Midwinter Swapfest, sponsored by the West Allis RAC, will be held at the Waukesha Exposition Center, Hwys F & FT, Waukesha, WI. Contact WARAC Swapfest, P.O. Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas.

Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages, and/or we can include your flyers. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, and/or for including flyers, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

## Club Meetings

**BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**  
(W9YT - UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON)  
Monthly while school in session - 2nd Wednesday - 7:30 p.m. - B-314, Electrical Engineering Building.

**CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.**  
(STEVENS POINT)  
Second Wednesday.

**EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
2nd Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. - Parks and Recreation Bldg., Oxford and 1st Streets, Eau Claire. Hams, guests welcome. Travelers welcome on wide area club repeater K9UXP, 146.31/91.

**FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MADISON WI)**  
First and third Tuesdays - 7:30 p.m. - Red Cross Bldg., 4860 Sheboygan Ave.

**FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
Third Monday - 7:00 p.m. - Roosevelt Jr. High School, 318 E. Brewster St., Appleton. Info: (414) 735-6294.

**GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB**  
Second Thursday - Red Cross Bldg., corner Danz and Deckner, Green Bay.

**GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
Third Monday - 7:30 p.m. - Green Lake Town Hall, int. of county hwy. K and N.

**KETTLE MORAINÉ RADIO AMATEURS**  
Second Friday.

**MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS**  
First Wednesday - 7:00 p.m. - City Hall, 817 Franklin St., Manitowoc.  
Second Wednesday - Red Cross Building, 1816 Washington St., Manitowoc.

**MENOMONEE FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
Last Tuesday - Doors open 7:30 p.m., meeting begins 8:00 p.m. - Security Savings and Loan, Menomonee Falls. Amateurs and guests welcome.

**MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB**  
Second Thursday - Wauwatosa Savings and Loan, 7500 W. State St.

**OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB**  
Second Wednesday - 7:30 p.m. - Saukville Community Center.

**RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
First Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. - Onalaska Community Center, Onalaska WI.

**ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB**  
First Tuesday - 8:00 p.m. - Dodge County Sheriff's Dep't, 141 N. Main, Juneau WI.

**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
Second Tuesday - 7:00 p.m. - Sheboygan Red Cross/Boy Scout Bldg., 2032 Erie Ave.

**SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
First Wednesday - Legion Post 434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek WI. Auctions in March and October.

**WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEURS CLUB**  
Second Tuesday - 8:00 p.m. - St. Francis Savings, 9330 W. Greenfield Ave.

**WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION (WAUSAU)**  
First Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. - Location varies; info on 146.04/64, Wausau.

**YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (BARABOO)**  
Days rotate: Tue., Oct. 13; Wed., Nov. 11; Thu., Dec. 10. Monday meetings in room 20; all others room 25. Meetings start 7:30 p.m.

Let Badger State Smoke Signals know your club's meeting dates, and we will let our readers know of your meetings and activities. There may be Amateurs in your area interested in joining your club, or members of other interested in making an interclub visit.

I'm sorry, Mary, I'll be out of town and can't attend your Surprise Party.

# WISCONSIN PACKETEER (continued from page 14) Changes At "SLG" Digi

Here are the changes to the WB9TYT digi in located in Slinger, Wisconsin. WB9TYT-9 is not in use at the moment. WB9TYT-7, alias SLG, is on the 145.01 port using Version 1.2 Net/Rom. WB9TYT-8, alias SLGB, is on the 446.01 port using Version 1.2 Net/Rom. (This is the start up of the backbone frequency in Wisconsin. The "B" in the alias will designate a backbone Net/Rom). Currently there are 2 PBBS's on the backbone, WB9TYT & WA9KEC. WB9TYT-8 has 4 elements facing Green Bay & 4 elements facing south. It is 100 watts strong. SLG & SLGB are connected together via a 9600 baud hardware line.

Dan - WB9TYT

## Your Opinion Wanted.....

I am conducting a survey about keyboard to keyboard QSO's on packet and the use of CQ calls. I would appreciate it very much if you would send me a message with the answers to these questions.

1. What percentage of time is your packet station on-the-air and available for connects?  
(A) LESS THAN 30% (B) 30% TO 90% (C) MORE THAN 90%

2. How frequently do you connect to a specific station you already know with the intention of having a live QSO?

(A) NEVER (B) SELDOM (C) OCCASIONALLY (D) FREQUENTLY

3. What percentage of the time when you are at home, would you answer a station connecting for a live QSO?

(A) LESS THAN 25% (B) 25% TO 50% (C) 51% TO 75% (D) MORE THAN 75%

4. Are you interested in VHF packet keyboard to keyboard QSO's with previously unknown stations?

(A) NOT AT ALL (B) VERY LITTLE (C) SOMEWHAT (D) VERY MUCH

5. When you are in the shack, do you set your station so that unconnected CQ calls could be seen and answered?

(A) NEVER (B) OCCASIONALLY (C) USUALLY (D) ALWAYS

6. In the last year how many packet QSO's have you initiated or answered, with a previously unknown station?

(A) NONE (B) 1 - 5 (C) 6 - 25 (D) MORE THAN 25

7. Please include any comments about this survey or about the value of CQ's in VHF packet radio.

Please send your reply to: WD9CYU @ WDOGNK or connect directly to me. I am on 145.01 via FBL from Minneapolis, or via WAS from the west. You do not need to go through RST. From LaCrosse use LSE & RST. My mailing address is 2116 8th Ave NE, Rochester MN, 55904. Thank you for taking the time to read this survey. Respondents wishing a copy of the results please so indicate on your message. -- Very 73, Jim, WD9CYU

MFJ 1270B Fix.....

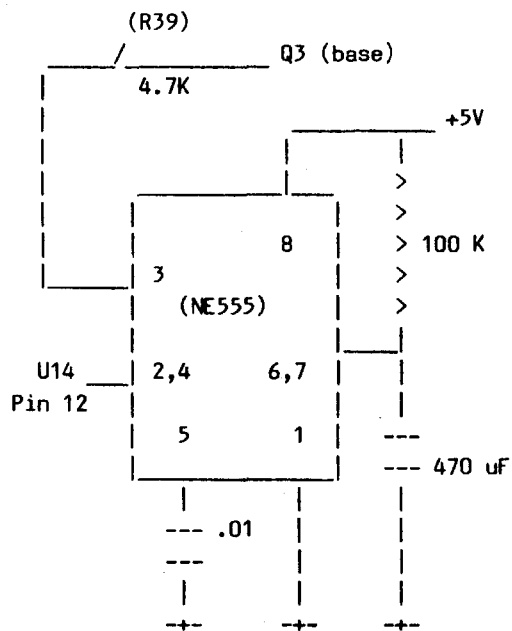
It appears that some MFJ 1270B TNCs are unable to operate at 9600 baud between the computer and TNC. The fix is simple and relatively inexpensive. Replace U3 with an LM348 or equivalent (quad op amp). The 348 has a faster response than the 322 the unit comes with.

AL - N1BCK

## Timer For Unattended TNCs.....

With the recent cases of Kantronics lockup, It may be time to remind those with stock KPC-x (other than KPC-4 or KAM) of the danger in unattended operation of any TNC which lacks a watchdog timer (just ask W9ZRX about the damage to his HF station when his KPC-2 locked up).

Here is the schematic of a timer designed for the KPC-2. However, it will work with any TNC lacking a safety timer.



All of the parts are available from your local Radio Shack.

NE555	(RS 276-1723)	\$1.19
470 uF	(RS 272- 957)	\$ .89
.01 uF	(RS 272- 131)	\$ .49
100 K	(RS 271-1347)	\$ .39
pc-board	(RS 276- 159)	\$1.49 (optional)

The constants shown will give about a 51 second timeout which is suitable for HF and VHF. Reducing the capacitor to 220 uF (RS 272-956) would reduce the time out to 24 seconds for VHF only work.

The original KPC part numbers refer to the KPC-2, they may be different in the KPC-1 (Q3 is the PTT transistor, R39 is the base current limiting resistor for Q3).

I suggest that all KPC owners install a hardware timer in their unit. It may save a rig, power supply or worse if the TNC ever locks up.

73, Joe - AD8I

## Packet DX List

As of September 4, 1987, 86 ARRL countries were represented on HF amateur frequencies. Here is a listing of those prefixes:

3D6, 4X, 5H3, 5N, 5V, 6W, 9K2, 9M, 9V, A4, BY, BV, CE, CN8, CP, CT1, C6, DL, DU, EA1, EA8, EI, F, FK, FM, FO, G, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, HA, HB, HC, HH, HI, HK, HL, HP, HT, I, JA, KHO, KH2, KH6, KH8, KG4, KL7, KP4, LA, LU, LX, OA, OE, OH, ON, OX, OY, OZ, PA, PJ2, PJ7, PY, PZ, SM, ST, TG, TI, TF, T30, VE, VK, VP2M, VS6, W, XE, XX, YB, YJ, YU, YV, ZF, ZK1, ZL, ZS

Info above compiled from WORLI, WD4BIW, W9ZRX, N1DL, DU1POL, KB7G, K2AAA, AD8I, HK3BCA, W3IWI, WD9DHI, WA6OWM, WB7DCH, N6IYA, VK4AHD, WA6OWM, W7LHO, AH6GJ, WB6ASR, KA3T.

## PK-64 Scope Hookup.....

If you are interested in hooking up a scope to the AEA PK64A/HFM TNC, then here is how it is done, according to AEA: You may connect a scope to the HFM to obtain scope outputs. Connect the mark channel to U4 pin 12 on the HFM. Connect the space channel to U3 pin 12 on the HFM. Your scope should be set to AC coupling. If you do not have AC coupling, install a .1 uF cap in series with both inputs. That is it.

## Forwarding Schemes Rewritten?.....

I recently had a lengthy conversation with Stephen Mendelsohn, WA2DHF, Hudson Division Director. He recently held a Regional Packet conference for the purpose of bringing the PBBS software writers together with NTS representatives. Representatives included, W2JUP, and KA2BQE software developers, W2XD for NTS' Eastern area staff, K1CE for ARRL, W4RI for ARRL digital Committee, all SM's, STM's and reps from major packet groups in the Division.

One of the conclusions they arrived at during the session was very disturbing to me and prompted the phone call. They came to the conclusion that the "Telephone Area Code" in the radiogram address would be best for routing the message via Packet Networks. They have also prompted the major software writers to rewrite the software to accommodate this conclusion. Steve reported that he expects to see this accomplished by the end of September.

Area Code forwarding would be a major departure from our present working system in the Midwest. Area code districts in the Midwest cover very vast areas. As an example, Indiana would have to be sectioned into only three major Local Nodes instead of the 14 we have at present. To automatically break down the message further would mean using the 3 digit local exchange. There are literally hundreds of different local exchanges within each area code district. The forwarding files of these 3 Local nodes would be tremendous, to service the whole district. And weren't hurt the worse! Most of the Western states only have one area code to cover the entire state. Their Regional Node would have to service thousands of local exchanges. Also, area codes cannot be logically parsed from beginning to end as zip codes can. There is no geographical order to them. The Major Long haul nodes would have to have multiple entries for many states, thus greatly enlarging their forwarding files. This is definitely a step backwards in the process to make forwarding as automatically possible. I urge you to contact the ARRL through Rick Palm, Field Services Manager, and voice your opinion about this development. But even more importantly, let him know the problems we would have in implementing such a system. In the Hudson division, where the entire state is smaller than one of our Area code districts, this may not be a poor system, but I think they failed to look at the rest of the world around them. By convincing the software writers to support this, they will establish a national standard based on their local needs, and force us to implement it. It's time the ARRL heard from more than their local assemblages, and take a stance that will benefit the entire Packet community. National leadership is needed to set the standards. The ARRL is your and my voice to accomplish this. 73 Steve, KD9ER, IND ASM - Packet/NTS

# The TEST POINT

Badger State Smoke Signals

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October

1987

The following are known locations where Amateur Radio license examinations are scheduled in the Badger State area.

October 10, 1987 Waseca, MN  
 October 10, 1987 Madison, WI  
 October 17, 1987 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)  
 October 17, 1987 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
 October 17, 1987 Rhinelander, WI  
 October 17, 1987 Minneapolis, MN  
 October 17, 1987 Tomah, WI  
 November 7, 1987 Richfield, MN  
 (Robbinsdale ARC)  
 November 14, 1987 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)  
 November 21, 1987 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
 December 5, 1987 Stevens Point, WI  
 December 19, 1987 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
 December 19, 1987 Rhinelander, WI  
 December 19, 1987 St. Paul, MN

Monthly, First Sat. Racine, WI  
 Monthly, Third Sat. Loves Park, IL

## GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Most examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor to find out if they allow walk-ins.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL or Badger State Smoke Signals. Send a 22¢ SASE if you request one from the ARRL or BSSS. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$4.35 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their original Amateur license to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

## FOUR LAKES ARC (ARRL/VEC)

OCTOBER 10, 1987

Fire Station #2, at 421 Grand Canyon Dr. They start at 8:30 a.m. sharp.

## MILWAUKEE METRO AREA TEST TEAM - MRAC/VEC (MRAC)

October 17, 1987

Wauwatosa East High School  
 74th and Milwaukee Avenue.

November 14, 1987 (6.91 Friendly Fest)

Bring your original license and 2 good photocopies, a pen, and \$4.35 for the exam fee. Walk-ins accommodated if time permits.

Register in advance on a Postal Service 14 cent postcard; print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number. Send to: The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc., N50 W16328 Pin Oak Court, Menomonee Falls WI 53051.

## BADGER EXAMINERS (BE)

October 17; November 21; December 19.

All examinations from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Examinations held at St. Nicholas Parish (unless otherwise noted), 5353 N. Green Bay Ave., Milwaukee (2 1/2 blocks south of Silver Spring.)

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Advance registrations preferred. Contact Mickey Dolgin, KB9G, 507 E. Spooner Rd., Fox Point WI 53217. (414) 351-5311.

## TOMAH, WI

VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER  
 (DeVry VEC)

October 17, 1987 - 1 p.m.

Advance registration NOT required. Contact: Bill Bastian, N9BOE, 702 Farmer Ave., Tomah WI 54660. (608) 372-7293.

## RHINELANDER, WI - NICOLET COLLEGE

Science Center, Fireside Room - (DeVry VEC)  
 Contact: Len Bauman, K9RMN, 1312 Dorothy St., Rhinelander, WI 54501, (715) 369-3296

## STEVENS POINT, WI - BLUE TOP INN

Contact: Joe Larson, N9JW, 644 Portage St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, (715) 344-1182

## RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

First Saturday of each month except during summer and the Christmas holidays.

Exams are given at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine WI 53405.

Bring your original license and a photocopy of it; also bring some form of photo identification, such as a Wisconsin photo driver's license, and a check for \$4.35 payable to ARRL/VEC.

Pre-registration at least 40 days before the test is desired, but walk-ins are permitted and will be accommodated until the extra supply of exams is exhausted.

Send pre-registration to: William R. Firchol, Jr., N9DMP, 1912 27th Street, Kenosha WI 53140.

## Third Saturday of every month.

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (DeVry VEC). Held at North Suburban Library on North Second Street in Loves Park, IL.

Contact: Gene Melton, AK9N, 2901 Billie Rd., Rockford, IL 61109, (815) 874-6867

## MINNESOTA TESTS

Gopher/Minneapolis ARC: Robbinsdale ARC:

Avery Finn, KØHLA Ron Schultz, NAØU  
 P.O. Box 53 6308 Peacedale Ave.  
 Hopkins, MN 55343 Edina, MN 55424  
 (612) 448-5384 (612) 920-7473

St. Paul ARC:

Jay Bellows, KØQBE  
 997 Portland Ave.  
 St. Paul, MN 55104  
 (612) 222-7253

## LOCATIONS:

University of Minnesota Moos Hall, Washington and Union Streets, Minneapolis.

St. Luke's School, 1005 Summit Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota.

Richfield, Minnesota, Hamfest Minnesota and Computer Expo.

Waseca, Minnesota, Annual Hamfest at Senior High School.

(ed note.) Thanks to Marv Mahre, WØMGI for the Minnesota information. If you are interested

in any of the Minnesota tests, we suggest that you save the above information as we may not be able to have the complete list in every issue of Smoke Signals.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules.

Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN or K9ZZ at the address shown on page 2.

# Yellow Thunder

## Amateur

## Radio

## Club



### K9ODK

### WB9FDZ

The next meeting of the YTARC will be held Tuesday October 13, 1987, at 7:30 p.m. in room 25 of the Baraboo Civic Center, Baraboo WI.

## September 14 - Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:51 p.m. by President Steve Schwoegler, WB9RNL. Upcoming programs were discussed (through December). Treasurer's report - same as last month. K9ZZ gave a report on the Bicentennial program for club special event stations.

Further discussion was held about the club contact with Sauk County Emergency Government.

Novice class planning - tentatively plan for Portage in conjunction with state Vo-Tech program.

Buck Nite winner was Bill Klinkner for \$6.00. Bill was not present, so for October it will be \$7.00.

Meeting closed at 8:15 p.m.

The program was about Packet BBSs by Duane Grotophorst, KA9HKL.

Next month's program will be an ARRL film.

## ATTENDANCE

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ	Baraboo
Duane Grotophorst, KA9HKL	Sauk City
Ken Johnson, K9DZG	Mazomanie
Jim Decker, WB9UQT	Baraboo
H. A. Reif, KA9YQP	Baraboo
Harry Mayland, K9FFT	Baraboo
Steve Schwoegler, WB9RNL	Wisconsin Dells

## Birthday

Paul Amend KA9OBP October 10

## Sentence Sermon

He who governed the world before I was born, shall take care of it likewise when I am dead. My part is to improve the present moment.



## More Green Fox Picnic Pix



Some of the hundred or so people attending the Green Fox Amateur Radio Club's fourth picnic are shown above in these photos taken by Carl Plotz, WB9JSW. In the photo at left are Fred Becker, W9KKM; Art Fowler, KA9EFT; and Jack Bremer, KB9WC. In the photo at right are Frances and Harold (Fergie) Ferguson. Fergie is W9IEM. Among the delicacies served at the picnic was steamed sweet corn; among those doing cooking chores were Mac



Mc Curdy, N9CXX, his wife Lorraine and daughter Barb; Diane Loeffler (wife of Steve, WB9ZRE); Sandy Bremer (wife of Jack, KB9WC); and Bill Silva, KC9EY, and his wife May. Jack, KB9WC, says there were between 30 and 40 bidders at the auction pictured on this issue's front page, and there were twice as many items offered as there were last year. Jack says, "The picnic was excellent. If you missed it, be sure to come next year!"

### ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT MALIGNS HAMS (From The ARRL Letter)

An inappropriate reference to "hams" appeared on the first feed of the ABC World News Tonight Program August 17 anchored by Ted Koppel. Koppel reported that a "ham radio operator" was transmitting false air traffic control instructions on a La Guardia airport frequency.

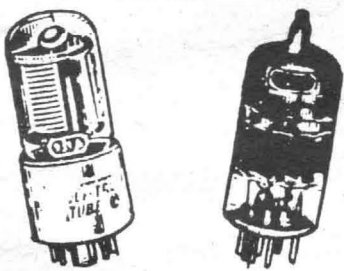
The story went on to say the individual responsible has not been identified, so of course the idea that he might be a ham was pure supposition. In fact, the original story came from AP, which quoted an FAA spokesman as referring to a "phantom" radio operator; somehow ABC turned "phantom" into "ham." The reference was corrected on the second and third feeds of the same program, so only parts of the country heard the slanderous reference. Unfortunately, despite repeated telephone calls, telegrams, and other messages from ARRL HQ and individual amateurs, ABC so far has declined to air a clarification.

ARRL EVP David Sumner, K1ZZ, has sent a letter to Roone Arledge, President of ABC News, recounting the incident and pointing out that "simple justice requires that a clarification be carried on ABC World News at least as prominently as the original offending item. While the damage can never be fully repaired, we believe this is the least you can do in recompense."

### THIS OPEN HOUSE MIGHT ZAP YA!

Resonance Research Corporation will have Open House on Wednesday, October 28, 1987. (See the cover story in September 1987 BSSS.) RRC manufactures large Tesla coils, Van de Graff generators, and many other spectacular devices. Large working Tesla coils will be on display. Refreshments will be served. RRC is located about 5 miles north of Baraboo, just east of County Highway A on Shady Lane Road. The Open House will start at about 7:00 p.m. The public is invited.

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Elizabeth, NJ 07206

DID YOU KNOW? that they were spark stations  
The first police radio was in used to talk to boats in the  
New York City in 1916 - and harbor? - K9UTQ

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GUARANTY  
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AMATEUR- HIGHEST EFFICIENCY- 200 WATTS TO 10,000 WATTS- FIVE YEAR GUARANTY- QUALITY-





The September meeting of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Gary, NI9V, at 7:40 p.m.

A motion for acceptance of the minutes as published in Smoke Signals was made by Dick, KØJYB, and was seconded by Wid, W9DM. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was given by Sec. - Treas. Dick as: \$215.51 in the checking account and \$289.58 in the savings account, for a total balance of \$505.09.

The Secretary had no communications.

#### OLD BUSINESS

No action has been taken regarding the channel 8 tape of field day. The tape has been archived as 3rd generation material.

#### 37/97 REPORT

Van, WA9FIO announced that there will be a climbing party at the antenna site on Friday, Sept. 4th in the p.m. A local climber has been hired and the price is right. The new antenna to hard line cables will be installed.

#### JACKETS

Craig, N9ETD informed us that he was unable to obtain the silk screens from the bankrupt company and will start from scratch with a new company for bids on logos and jackets.

#### SWAP FEST

The RARC swap fest will be held at the Onalaska Community Center on Sat. Sept. 12 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The admission fee will be \$1.50.

Wid, W9DM, told us that Diane, W9DNG, has been airing the swap fest date on various nets. Wid has been doing the same.

#### PACKET MEETING

There will be a packet committee meeting during the swap fest to plan an agenda and set up a date and meeting time

for the second annual area Packet meeting.

#### PROGRAMS

Glenn, NØBBW, will show us video tapes of moon shots taken with a telescope and a video camera plus other pictures of the stars etc. This will be on Oct. 6, on our regular meeting date.

Tim, NS9E, will arrange a trip through T.V. channel 25 some time in the future.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Wid, W9DM, tells us that he has his Ten-Tec equipment back from the repair shop and has decided to sell his lightning damaged ICOM equipment at the swap fest.

Bill, WB9VYI, is organizing an antenna party for Sat. morning Sept. 5 to repair and replace Wid's antenna system.

The meeting was brought to a close at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Dick, KØJYB

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

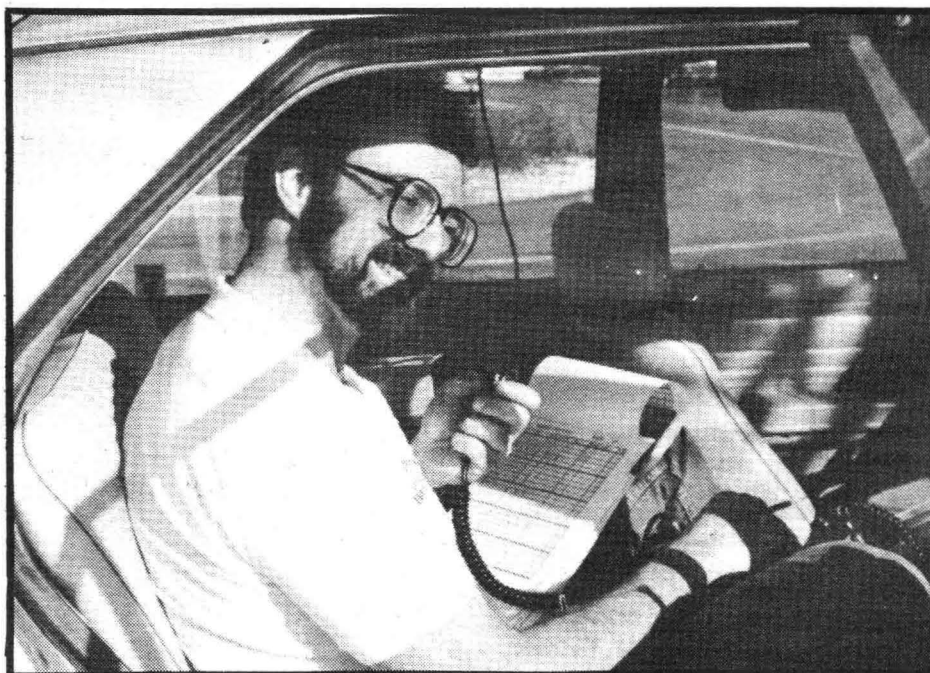
Dick Low  
Ernie Gershon  
Karl Olberg  
John Young

KØJYB  
K9ZVU  
W4ST  
W9KAZ

Art Osborn  
Craig Goldbeck  
Jim Burcum  
Jim Molledahl  
Wid Johnson  
Maty Johnson  
Rick Williams  
William L. Wood  
Gary Webb  
Tim Stoffel  
Roger Reader  
Mike Tessmer  
Ron Reed  
Duane Fruechte  
Ray Wakeen  
Curt Phelps  
Bill Cress  
Bob Anderson  
L. F. Bentzen  
Dallas C. Miller  
Greg A. Miller  
Van Elston  
Fred Moore  
A. Boomer  
Charles A. Ferris

WØJDC  
N9ETD  
K9LBX  
W9BI  
W9DM  
XYL-W9DM  
KV9U  
WB9VYI  
NI9V  
NS9E  
KA9BKK  
NØBSH  
KD9OY  
W9HWQ  
WA9HHM  
KA9YPP  
Guest  
WAØVHO  
K9EGO  
K9LEC  
KA9FOZ  
WA9FIO  
WB9JTP  
Guest  
W9TCW

Riverland Club members are reminded that the RiverLan Packet Conference will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, 1987. See the packet radio section of BSSS for details.



## QSO Party Capers

John Boos, NØBMP, of West Dundee IL, and Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, Schaumburg IL, put forth a highly ambitious effort in the Wisconsin QSO Party in March, 1987. Heads of other drivers turned to look in amazement as this vehicle travelled the highways from near the Illinois border to the Appleton area, with the generator on the trailer putting away to furnish power to the HF rig, which ran 1 Kilowatt mobile on 40 and 80 CW and SSB. Two meters and 440 FM were also operated. The bottom photo shows John, NØBMP, operating during a stop. A photo of the equipment setup is on page 7.

- Photos by  
Mark Thompson,  
WB9QZB





## EDITORIAL

BY *Jim Romelfanger* K9ZZ

In 1976, Radio Amateurs in the United States took part in the Bicentennial Celebration commemorating our country's 200th birthday. For about a year, we had the option to use our regular call signs (ala K9PKQ), or to use a special bicentennial commemoration prefix (ala AD9PKQ). We simply substituted AD for K. Other prefix letters had other substitutes, among them AA, AB and AC; there were numerous other special prefixes used by FCC-licensed Amateurs in U.S. states, territories and possessions outside the continental U.S.

We had our choice: we could use our usual call signs, or, if we wished, we substituted the special prefix, according to the letters in the prefixes of our calls.

It was fun, since the special prefixes made contacts with U.S. stations more desirable for DX stations than under normal circumstances. No doubt, it was probably confusing to some as well, until they understood how the special call sign system worked.

It also brought many of us a renewed sense of pride, as our call signs said, "Hey, world, we are proud of our country and we are proud of ourselves."

Now, we are about to celebrate another bicentennial, this time the 200th birthday of the Constitution of the United States. Radio Amateurs are to take part, under auspices of our national organization, the American Radio Relay League.

The League had proposed to the Federal Communications that individual Amateurs in the U.S. be allowed to delete the usual numeral in their call signs, and substitute a numeral which was to be the order of entry into the Union, or, in the case of the 13 original colonies/states, the order in which they ratified the constitution. The League also proposed to the FCC that Amateur club stations be allowed to substitute "200" for the numeral in their call signs, and be allowed to operate with that special call sign for one week. The week of operation was to be close to the actual date a state entered the Union.

The FCC said "no" to the first part of the proposal, probably because it would be too confusing. If that's case, it is not a valid reason, since the proliferation of AA, AB, AC, AD, and many other call signs wasn't too confusing in 1976. In fact, the proposal by the League for special individual call signs would be much LESS confusing than it was in 1976.

The FCC did, however, approve the special club call sign proposal, but with a restriction that is unacceptable. Only club stations in capital cities "and other approved locations" will be allowed to help celebrate the 200th birthday of the constitution. This restriction is discriminatory and it makes no sense (I say this while keeping in mind that the government sometimes does indeed do things that make no

sense.)

The FCC cannot correctly claim that it would be too confusing for its monitoring stations, since the League will have a data base with the call signs of all registered Amateur Radio clubs taking part in this program, and this information will be available to the FCC. And, since the League would be handling the registration of all club stations taking part in the special club call sign project, the FCC would be hard-pressed to honestly claim that the program would cause the Commission economic hardship.

This restriction to club stations in capital cities and other approved locations will prevent most of us from helping to take part in something which should be open to all of us - in fact, this restrictive policy is contrary to the ideas and ideals contained in the document we will be celebrating. The restriction makes no sense.

The celebration by U.S. Radio Amateurs of the bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States must be open to ALL club stations.

The special call sign project cannot be limited to a privileged few. All club stations must be eligible to take part, regardless of their location in the United States. If all club stations are not eligible to take part, then the special club call sign portion of the bicentennial celebration project must be abandoned.

## MOVING SALE

1 - D203T Gotham 3 element 20 meter beam - delta match - 300 ohm - brand new. \$10.00.

1 - Heil EQ-200P microphone equalizer with AC power supply. \$20.00.

1 - Astatic D-104C microphone with model G push-to-talk stand. \$15.00.

1 - RCA WV-98C Volt-Ohmyst with AC-DC and demodulator probes. \$25.00.

1 - Philmore MC-40 crystal mike with Atlas DS-5 desk stand. \$4.00.

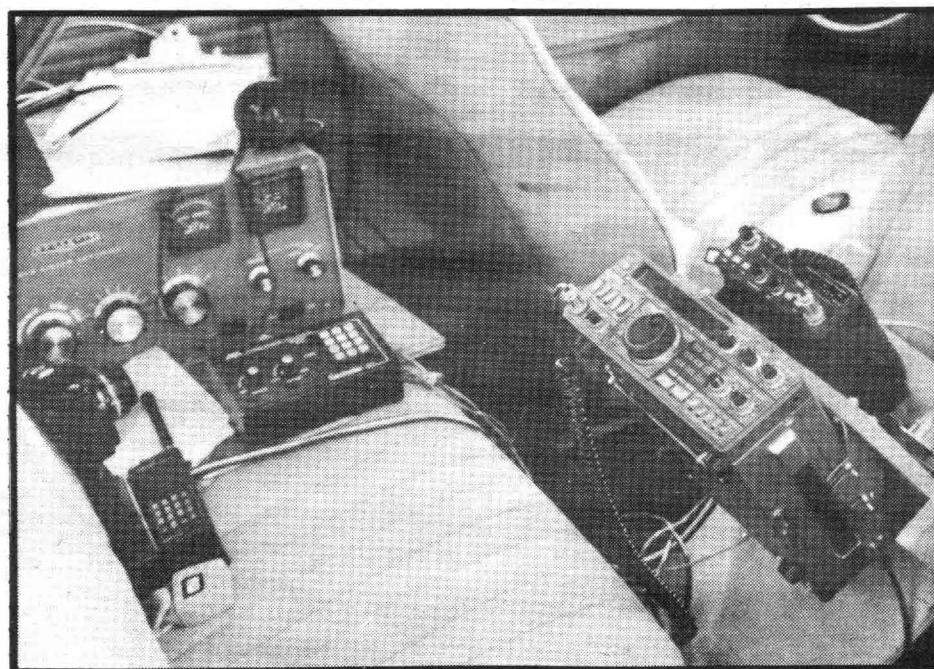
2 - Tape recorder mikes. \$1.00 each.

1 - Telex headset-ear plug type. \$3.00.

Parts for 14 volt, 15 ampere power supply. (Transformer, capacitor, bridge rectifier, etc.) \$5.00.

Also many miscellaneous parts. Moving October 1, and can't see to build.

Harv Hamer, K9YHO, P.O. Box 351, Sorg Trailer Court, Baraboo WI 53913. (608) 356-3295.



### QSO PARTY CAPERS

Here's the NØBMP mobile setup used for the 1987 Wisconsin QSO Party. The HF rig is mounted on the console facing the rear seat, with the 2-meter rig on top of the HF rig. The Heathkit KW amplifier is at the left. NØBMP had 50 CW QSOs, 177 on SSB, and 49 multipliers, for a very respectable mobile score of 15,623 points. Photo by Mark Thompson, WB9QZB.

### SEPTEMBER TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. G3E
2. 5 hours

$$3. SWR = \frac{E_{max}}{E_{min}}$$

4. MAYDAY
5. 1200 miles
6. Packet

7. Official Observer
8. Heathkit
9. Jim Romelfanger K9ZZ
10. Check (word count)

## BSSS Appoints Advertising Manager

We are pleased to announce that Harry Westlund, K9EHJ, Baraboo, has accepted the position of Advertising Manager for Badger State Smoke Signals.

Inquiries regarding display advertising should be directed to Harry at 720 Jefferson Street, Baraboo WI 53913. Harry's telephone is (608) 356-6836. Welcome, Harry!

**QRM-itis** Case No. 2  
*The foul-mouth syndrome*

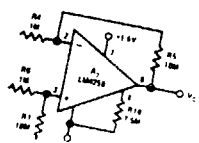
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W90DV QCWA

# John's



# Junk Box



By John W. Frank, WB9TQG  
P.O. Box 5113  
Madison WI 53705

## SOME THOUGHTS ON MODIFYING EQUIPMENT

Not long ago, I looked around my shack and realized that most of the equipment I own has been modified in one or more ways. Some of the modifications are quite simple: substituting a pointer knob for a round knob so my XYL or I could tell where a switch is set without looking at it, for example.

Other modifications are more complicated, like changing an initialization board to limit frequency coverage in a micro-processor controlled transceiver. But whatever the modification I have in mind is, I ask myself several important questions before I jump into the equipment with my wire cutters and my soldering iron.

1. Will this modification void any warranty? This is obviously not a problem if you want to put your DX-40 on 160 meters. However, if you are thinking of modifying your new high-tech rig, you would be wise to read all the fine print in the warranty to see if modifications void the warranty.

2. Will this modification affect the value of the rig? If you are thinking of modifying the PTT circuit of the old crystal controlled two meter rig you got back in 1976 to make it compatible with your new packet setup, you probably won't have to worry about ruining the trade-in value of the radio. If, on the other hand, you want to grind a hole in the side of the \$1200 HF rig you bought last year so you can install an auxiliary gizmo control, you might give some thought to what effect the modification will have on the resale value.

3. Has someone else made a similar modification? Modifications remain a popular topic for articles in magazines. Before you get out your tools and heat up the soldering iron, it may be worth your while to look through back issues of amateur radio magazines to see if anyone else has written an article on the type of modification you have in mind.

4. Is this modification really necessary? Some radios are just begging to be modified, like the two meter radio with the F-61 antenna connector. As soon as the warranty on that rig expired, I removed the F-61 and installed a BNC connector. Why didn't the manufacturer use a BNC connector to begin with? Even though the BNC is a better connector, the F-61 is less expensive. My feeling on this question is that common sense and economics can help you decide if a modification is really necessary.

5. Is a modification kit available? Entrepreneurs sometimes realize when a market exists for a modification kit. Take a look at those little ads in the back of some magazines if you want to increase the output of your Kenwood, convert your Midland CB to 10 meters, or improve the selectivity of your HF transceiver. You might find that a kit exists and will fit

your needs. (Editor's note: Another advantage offered by kits is that you don't have to go through an often agonizing search for parts; the kit manufacturer has done that for you. Kits can also sometimes be less costly than the individual parts would be if you bought them yourself.)

6. Is a factory retrofit available? Although many manufacturers don't condone equipment modifications, some offer options and accessories which could be installed by a dealer or by the owner. For example, last year I bought a new receiver which had the AC power supply built in. I knew that someday I was going to want to use that receiver in my truck. Instead of drilling a hole in the rear panel and installing a homebrew DC supply, I bought the optional DC power cord which mounted in a factory supplied hole on the back of the receiver. The cord was part of a kit, along with some hardware, connectors, and complete setp-by-step installation instructions.

7. Is the modification reversible? There's a world of difference between clipping one wire in a diode matrix to change frequency coverage in a synthesized UHF rig and trying to add new bands to your old HF transceiver. If I want to restore frequency coverage in the UHF rig, all I have to do is reconnect one wire. Restoring a highly modified rig to its original condition could be difficult or impossible.

Despite all the potential drawbacks to modifying equipment, I will probably keep on modifying equipment whenever the need arises. Have I ever made a modification I later regretted? Yes, and I've got the hole plug in the side of my Regency HR-2B to prove it.

73, and think twice before you start the drill press.

John, WB9TQG

## ARRL FILES REPLY COMMENTS IN PRB-3 (Condensed from The ARRL Letter)

The ARRL has filed reply comments in PRB-3, the FCC public notice that inquires whether the private sector could establish a program to grant requests for specific amateur call signs. This notice contained the FCC criteria for the selection of a Special Call Sign Coordinator (SCSC) and established a pleading cycle for groups or organizations to file proposals to be an SCSC.

Eleven other individuals, groups and companies (in addition to the ARRL) petitioned the FCC to be an SCSC. These are: (1) Radio Amateur Callbook, Inc., (2) Buckmaster Publishing, (3) Frederick O. Maia, W5YI (SCSC for 5th call area only), (4) Callsign, Inc., (5) DeVry VEC/Diamond Systems, Inc., (6) Brown and Schwaninger, (7) Association Headquarters, (8) William W. Holm, N1ECM, (9) Acadania Computer Systems, Inc., (10) Forest Industries Telecommunications, and (11) Central Alabama VEC, Inc.

The ARRL's comments concentrated on the extent to which each of these groups or individuals satisfied the criteria considered important by the amateur community. For example, it is obvious from the comments filed that the amateur community views the assignment of call signs as a service, not as a business proposition, and amateurs would not be supportive on the appointment of a for-profit entity (5 of the above are for-profit) as an SCSC.

ARRL's comments emphasized that the amateur volunteer examiner program must not be compromised by the addition of an SCSC function by any VEC.

Another general principle established by the comments received by the FCC is that the amateur community is interested only in an SCSC entity which has an established record of service to amateurs on a national basis.

One of the proposals came from Forest Industries Telecommunications, which supports the reallocation of 220-222 MHz to the Land Mobile Service (and 1 MHz more from that band)!

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In conclusion, the ARRL emphasizes that the assignment of call signs is a governmental function, but if the FCC is reluctant to take on such a program, the benefits to the amateur community are such that the ARRL is willing to assume this task under certain conditions.



## JOTA Set for October 17, 18



The annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will be held this year on October 17-18. This is a great opportunity to introduce our youth to Amateur Radio.

During this event, Boy Scouts from around the globe visit ham stations and talk to other scouts. What better way to expose young men to radio than by hands-on experience?


If you want to participate in this worthwhile event, contact a local scout leader and obtain a list of area Scoutmasters. Then, contact them and invite them to bring their boys to your station (at home or a public place) so they can get a first-hand experience of what Amateur Radio has to offer them. Another way to make this event known is to attend a District Roundtable and explain what takes place during JOTA.

It is a well-known fact that the average age of amateur operators is around 45 years old. It is very crucial to the future of this hobby that we encourage young people to join us in this wonderful pasttime. We live in a very high-tech society and Amateur Radio is constantly on the forefront of new developments.

Attractive embroidered patches (see replica above) are available for those who participate. Watch for details in the October issues of QST and Worldradio.

- Gene Santoski, K9UTQ

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CAP

### BADGER EXAMINERS TEST RESULTS

The following people upgraded at the August test session of the Badger Examiners:

Marina Devcic - to Technician  
Robert Kling - to Technician

Robert Schmidt, Jr., N9GMT - to Amateur Extra  
Douglas Liesch, KA9TFC - to Advanced  
Jerry Marowsky - to Technician  
Wayne Schulz, KA9ZGS - to Technician

(Thanks Mickey Dolgin, KB9G)



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☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years

☐ new ☐ renewal



# THE KETTLE MORaine RADIO AMATEURS

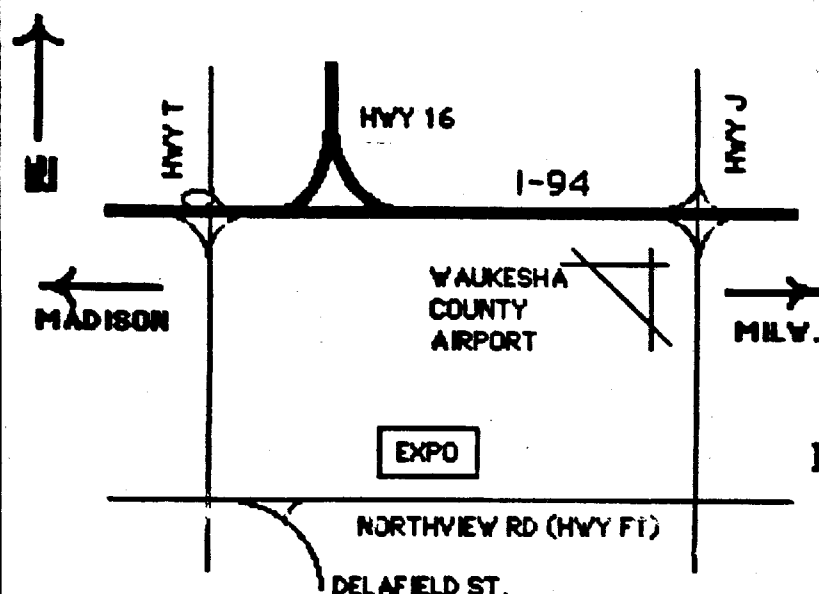
PRESENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1987

## HAM, COMPUTER, AND VIDEO FEST

WAUKESHA EXPOSITION CENTER  
HIGHWAYS J & FT  
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NOV IN NEW MULTIPLE BUILDING COMPLEX. DOORS OPEN AT 7AM FOR VENDORS,  
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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

ALL ORDERS/INQUIRIES MUST HAVE AN S.A.S.E.  
OR THE ORDER WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR!

RETURN TO: KMRA-313 HILLVIEW CIRCLE-WAUKESHA, WI. 53188

## 220 Update

ARRL President Larry Price, W4RA, "completed his rounds" for General Docket 87-14 by visiting FCC Chairman Dennis Patrick on August 6; he had called on FCC Commissioners James Quello, Mimi Dawson and Patricia Dennis in June and July.

Meanwhile, the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) has filed reply comments sharply critical of the FCC's proposal. SBE said: "SBE believes that the reallocation of the 220 - 222 MHz band to the land mobile industry is unnecessary and would result in underutilization of the band. The Commission's assumption that the land mobile industry needs this additional spectrum is unfounded."

The Society concluded its comments by saying that much of the research and development in communications electronics and engineering had been done by amateurs and that this must be permitted to continue: "Antenna and pre-amplifier technology from such experimental work has contributed to many forward strides in spectrum efficiency enjoyed by all services, including broadcast and land mobile."

"Therefore, the Society.... feels that the reallocation of the 220-222 MHz band would be detrimental to the overall efficiency of spectrum management, as well as to the communications of Amateur Radio operators. The Commission should reject the proposals outlined in the Notice."

In other news regarding the 220 band, the FCC has denied the petition for reconsideration filed by The Association of Radio Reading Services (ARRS) which had sought the reallocation of 500 KHz of spectrum in the 220 - 225 MHz band on a primary basis for use nationwide by radio reading services for the blind and print handicapped. The FCC has denied the original ARRS petition in February. The ARRL had filed comments opposing both the original petition and the petition for reconsideration.

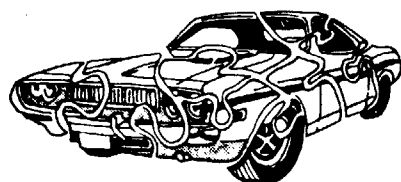
In denying the petition for reconsideration the FCC said: "In the case of the ARRS petition, we are convinced that there are existing sufficient means for providing reading services both by radio and by alternative methods. In fact, use of FM subcarriers.... and other methods are spectrum efficient ways to provide radio reading services because they take advantage of services already in place without utilizing additional spectrum. Accordingly, we decline to issue a proposal as suggested by ARRS."

(From The ARRL Letter, published by the American Radio Relay League)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Hiram Percy Maxim (ARRL founder) was the youngest to graduate from M.I.T. - at age 16?!

- K9UTQ



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# PROPAGATION PREDICTIONS



BY *Woody Minar* K9EF

13508 Tabscott Drive, Chantilly, Va. 22021

It is with deep regret that for personal reasons I will be unable to continue the propagation prediction articles in depth as in the past. My job has placed on me additional burdens and more time away from home. I hope to continue to forecast the props for you. I would like to leave you with my method of forecasting.

Find graph paper that has approximately 12-13 major horizontal divisions (or blocks) and nine major vertical divisions. Each major division should be divided into ten tiny squares (100 squares per division or block). On a horizontal row at the bottom of the page, label the first major division the 14th of July. The second major division will be labeled 24 July, the third 3 August, the fourth 13 August, etc. Thus, each little division will represent one day in history.

Vertically up from the base line you've established, label in red ink the baseline zero. Five small divisions up label it 20, etc. Do this up through 60. Thus, each small division will equal two units. These units will be called the Ap (Planetary Alpha) index.

On the same base line next to the red zero, label in green ink the number 60. At the red 10, label that row 70, the 20 should have 80 next to it, etc. Continue labeling every five divisions on up to about 200. Each small division represents two 2800 MHz solar flux units.

So that you're on track, you should have each day of the year going from left to right at the bottom of your sheet. Just above the days, you have a baseline and it should be numbered in red and green ink 0 and 60, respectively. Five divisions higher, you should have 10 and 70, five more higher, 20 and 80, etc. You now have your comparison grid and are ready to plot each day.

Here are actual data taken from my plots to show you what you should have. All dates are from July: the first number is the Ap - red ink, and the second number is the solar flux - green ink. July 14 (6,74), July 15 (22,76), 16 (23,78), 17 (17,79), 18 (12,80), 19 (10,82), 20 (11,91), 21 (8,93), 22 (11,106), 23 (5,112), 24 (11,111), 25 (17,111), 26 (4,110), 27 (5,102), 28 (24,99), 29 (36,94), and July 30 (12,91). When plotted correctly, the red and green lines should cross between July 14 and 15, July 16 and 17, July 28 and 29, and July 29 and 30.

Notice that July 15 and 16 peak and then 14 days later, July 29, the next peak occurs. This actuality will occur nearly every 14 and 28 days without fail - perhaps not as noticeably as this example. These peaks denote poor propagation (high Ap and low Solar flux). Also note that the solar flux peaked when the Ap lulled. That's a sign of best propagation (high so-

lar flux and low Ap). After you plot several months, you can see the peaks and valleys.

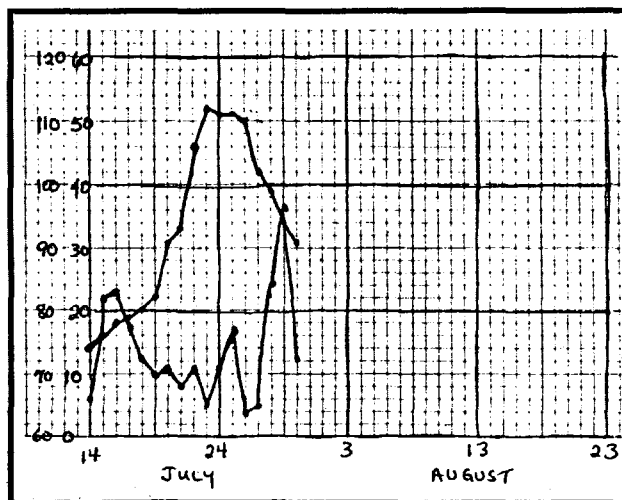
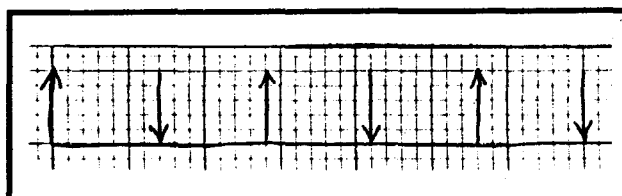
Take another piece of graph paper and at the left hand vertical column, put an arrow pointing up. Do this at the bottom of the paper. Seven divisions across, put an arrow pointing down. At the 14th, put an arrow pointing up. The 21st should have an arrow pointing down. Do this every seven divisions (days) to the end.

Go to your plots and find a noticeable peak in the Ap and put a down arrow on top of it (use July 15th). Notice that within plus or minus one day, there is another peak. In between, you'll see the lulls. Slide this moveable graph along until you find a nice match with arrows and the fixed graph. If the last match on your plots shows an arrow pointing up, move the slide over so the first up arrow on this match, then calculate what days of the following months have similar arrows. Down arrows (bad days) should also be calculated.

Referring to your graph, down arrows should occur at July 15 and July 30. The next down arrow (prediction) should be August 12. Since El Sol isn't perfect, the EXACT day was August 13 (That's why I said plus or minus one day). Predicting out further, the next days should be August 26 (plus or minus one day). The up arrows show the good propagation days. If anyone has questions on how this project works, please write. I've been using it successfully for over 13 years and I have the charts on hand. Good luck. Thank you for the letters.

Good days are: Oct. 14-16, 28-30, and Nov. 11-13.

Bad days are: Oct. 7-8, 21-23, Nov. 5-6, 19-20.



## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Woody has been faithfully writing Propagation Predictions for BSSS for a long time. We are grateful to him for his excellent voluntary contributions to this paper and to the Radio Amateurs of the Wisconsin area. We hope to receive further material from him as his time permits. Thanks, Woody! - K9ZZ

## PACKET POTPOURRI

Want to learn the latest in amateur packet radio? The 6th Computer Networking Conference book is now available for \$10 plus \$2.50 shipping from ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main St., Newington CT 06111. This book consists of 31 papers presented at the Conference, held at Redondo Beach, CA, August 29, 1987.

Kantronics, Inc., has announced the availability of its newest high-speed packet modem option for the KAM and KPC-4, called the 2400 Kantronics Modem. This new PC board modem plugs into an existing KAM or KPC-4 board to give its user optional 2400 bps packet operation. When installed in the KPC-4, use of the ONERADIO command permits mixed 1200/2400 bps data rates on a single frequency.

The new 2400 modem is now available from Kantronics. For more information, contact Kantronics, 1202 E. 23rd St., Lawrence, KS 66046.

- Thanks The ARRL Letter

## SHAWANO HAM WINS SCHOLARSHIP

The Foundation for Amateur Radio has announced the 1987 winners for the 26 scholarships it administers. Of six QCWA Memorial Scholarships at \$600 each, one went to Douglas Kleeman, KA9LWN, of Shawano, WI. Congrats, Doug!

## ATTENTION:

### VOLUNTEER EXAMINER GROUPS

Badger State Smoke Signals needs information for our Test Point column on volunteer examination sessions in Wisconsin, eastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, northern Illinois, and Upper Michigan. Please send the following information: Date(s), time(s), location(s), registration requirements, any other pertinent information, and contact person, including telephone number, if possible, to Ken Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901. Please do not ask us to take the information by radio or telephone; that leads to errors.

## SILENT KEY

We regret to report the death in a mobile home fire in Stoughton recently of Dave Gilbert, ex-WB9FKW. Dave was first licensed in the early 1970s, when he was in his teens, and residing in Prairie du Sac. Dave attended Yellow Thunder ARC Novice classes in Baraboo with his father, Robert.



# Eau Claire A.R.C.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club will be on Tuesday, October 13 at the Parks and Rec. Building. Lunch committee: Carl W9NW, Gordy N9FLN, and Robin NI9R.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Spratt. The minutes were approved as published in BSSS. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no further information on identifying signs for SKYWARN spotters and others engaged in emergency communications.

Much of the September meeting was concerned with the subject of the club's purchasing a trailer for emergency communications purposes. KA9LJK, KD9OB, and KA9HWN (all members of the trailer committee) reviewed the situation at present. The committee's research suggests a stripped (except for furnace) trailer could be purchased for \$500-\$600. Additions and modifications would then have to be made and, although much of the labor and supplies would probably be donated, some further cash outlay would probably be required. In the past we have discussed possible financing through individual donations by hams or through solicitation of interested parties. Many questions of title (could an unincorporated body hold title?), licensing, insurance, towing requirements, etc. are still unresolved. Tommy WA9WRM has offered space to store the trailer but local storage laws may present a problem. There is a good chance that the county's emergency vehicle will be sold and not

replaced. This vehicle has often been unavailable for Field Day activities, anyway, as there is a conflict with Sawdust City Days.

Darold N9FLK said that, as treasurer, he felt a limit of a \$1000 outlay would be prudent in light of anticipated club expenses. Jim KE9BC reiterated the value of such a trailer as a highly visible symbol of ham radio's all-important public service function. After much discussion a motion was presented which read "Resolved: that the club designate a member or members to be authorized to acquire a trailer suitable for modification for use in emergency communications, the cost of such trailer not to exceed \$585 from the club's general funds plus such funds as may be in the special trailer fund." The motion passed and the present trailer committee was designated by consensus to acquire a trailer within the terms of the motion. KD9OB volunteered to pursue lingering questions of how best to title the trailer, how insure it, etc. He also suggested that members wishing to voluntarily contribute to an "equipment fund" to help outfit the trailer contact him.

Carl W9NW reported for the Public Service Committee. The club provided communications for the Buckshot Run and all went well, though more volunteers would have been appreciated. A request to Carl for help with the Indian Head Track Club's half marathon was probably not timely and in any event a promised follow up to the request has not been made by the track club.

## NEW BUSINESS

Don K9UXP highlighted some material from the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters newsletter. The group will meet in Oshkosh September 12. Emergency Activation Signal (EAS) standards have been adopted by the group, one audible and one subaudible.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

W9NW is willing to conduct Novice classes this Fall provided enough interest is shown early enough for him to make plans for one. Prospective Novices should be encouraged to contact Carl soon. Code practice at Carl's will begin again soon, after a summer layoff. Contact Carl if you are interested.

NI9R announced the next session at Sacred Heart Hospital - Thursday September 24th at 3:30 p.m.

W9NW announced that the newly re-activated Northern Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club will meet September 22 in the Lei-

sure Hall in Menomonee.

Members were reminded of several upcoming hamfests. Especially recommended is the one in Grayslake, IL September 26-27 and the one in Waukesha on October 25th. See BSSS for details. Also, don't forget the satellite broadcast of The New World of Amateur Radio on September 20th. Again, see BSSS for details.

After several "For Sale" announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robin NI9R -- Sec. EARC

## CHICAGO AREA FLOODS

(Continued from front page)

The Elk Grove Amateur Radio Club, which is affiliated with the local Civil Defense organization, assisted the fire and police departments in linking the Elk Grove Village Hall to the rest of the community via the KB9L repeater. The Elk Grove Village Hall is a new complex still under construction. The basement of the new building was completely inundated by the storm.

Finally, compliments to the many Chicago and surrounding area hams who have no particular affiliation with a radio club or ARES group and yet pitched in to do what hams do best: provide emergency communications as a service to the public and to the community.

(Story by Hap Holly, KC9RP  
in The Westlink Report)

## Identify yourself with our custom engraved call pins

- 1 line 1"x3" .....\$1.00
- 2 lines 1"x3" .....\$1.25
- 3 lines 1 1/2"x3".....\$1.75

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We now have the Wisconsin state outline

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- 35A 600V BRIDGE RECT. . . . . 2.95
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- 2764.45-2.35 27256.2-5.75
- 4164.15- .90, 41256.15-2.45
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# Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

## WISCONSIN NETS

NET	WNA	FREQ	UTC	CDT	MANAGER
BWN	YES	3984	1100Z	0600	WD9IID
BEN	YES	3985	1700Z	1200	KA9RII
WSBN	YES	3985	2230Z	1730	WB9ESM
WNN	YES	3723	2300Z	1800	N9DGL
WSSN	YES	3645	2330Z	1830	N9BDL
WIN-E	YES	3662	0000Z	1900	WB9ICH
WIN-L	YES	3662	0300Z	2200	KC9CJ
NWTN	YES	34/94	2330Z	1830	W9ZZM
WCWTN	YES	31/91	2330Z	1830	NK9L
GR.BAY	NO	72/12	0145Z	2045	WB9NRK
			THU.	WED.	

RACES NO 3993.5 1715Z 1215 WC9AAG  
USB TUE. & THUR.

RACES NO 3993.5 1300Z 0800 WA9OAY

## Section Manager's notes

Richard R. Regent, K9GDF  
5003 South 26th Street  
Milwaukee WI 53221

Sorry to report Silent Key Sid Pokorny, WSUAW (formerly W9NRP) who helped form the Wisconsin QCWA Chapter 55 in 1971 and Wisconsin traffic nets. Sid was a Wisconsin SCM and was known for his devoted volunteer work to promote Amateur Radio.

W9YCV worked YL BY1CKJ on 14.052 MHz CW and then YBODPO for good measure. Les was also busy during a short two-meter opening, quickly working 12 stations in 10 different grid squares.

Don't delay your antenna work any longer, winter is coming.

November 14th, the Milwaukee Repeater Club will hold the 6.91 Friendly Fest open at 8 a.m., 7 a.m. for sellers, inside the greatly enlarged Serb Hall on one ground floor, 51st and Oklahoma in Milwaukee with free parking, K9IZV for more information. See you at the friendly ARRL table.

The Friendly Fest will have on-site exams given by the Milwaukee RAC VEC starting at 9 a.m.

November 16th the West Allis RAC will hold its Awards Dinner.

Badger Examiners exam November 21st, 1 p.m., reservations with KB9G.

Remember to indicate your Club participation when submitting an entry in the November phone or CW ARRL Sweepstakes, mark your log accordingly.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

## TRAFFIC TOPIX

Gene Santoski K9UTQ  
Section Traffic Mgr  
Wisconsin Section  
1220 18th Street So  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Greetings All!

Time once again for another column. Hope you all had a nice summer. There is a chill in the air that reminds one that the cold season is not far away. Along with colder weather, the bands seem to warm up with activity. Net operations seem to pick up in the fall months and with it, increased traffic volume. An additional benefit is the fact that atmospheric static is just about eliminated this time of year. Of course, we are also plagued with long skip on our evening nets that time of year and that means we have to be "on our toes" so that traffic is passed as efficiently and error-free as possible thru the interference. This is when your traffic-handling savvy really helps out.

Overall, the general participation and traffic volume is down somewhat from previous years in Wisconsin section nets. Hopefully we will see an upswing during the last quarter of 1987. Sure would be nice to stay in the top 10 ranking in national statistics. Let us all strive to meet that goal by getting more traffic on the nets and, more importantly, getting more new people involved in traffic handling.

Certain individuals have been circumventing the NTS channels by checking into Region and Area nets without utilizing Local and Section nets to handle traffic. Keep in mind that the only people authorized to operate at Region and Area level are those designated as liaison stations to those nets. If we don't comply with this method, everything gets messed up and the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Traffic Sys-

tem is severely hampered. Stay off those nets which you are not designated to participate in. We like to have enthusiastic traffic people in our nets but not to the extent that the overall operation of our nets is affected by their misuse of the system. If you are interested in becoming a liaison station to a higher level net, contact the Net Manager of the net you want to

be liaison station for and see if there are any openings. If there are, you will be welcomed with open arms. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated by all concerned.

The annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is scheduled for the weekend of October 17-18. This is an important emergency exercise that gives the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) a chance to practice communication skills under simulated emergency situations. These skills include interaction in the National Traffic System (NTS) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). The SET also provides a public demonstration of the capabilities of Amateur Radio to served agencies such as Red Cross, Civil Preparedness, Salvation Army and the news media. All Net Managers whos nets are involved in any way with SET are to submit a NM SET REPORT (Yellow form B) to the Section Traffic Manager (me) and to ARRL Headquarters summarizing SET net activities. All NMs should have received an SET packet with the necessary forms. If not, let me know and I will see that you get the forms necessary. As you well know, the main function of the National Traffic System in an emergency situation is to tie together all of the various local activities and to provide a means by which all traffic destined outside of a local area, section or region can be systematically relayed to the addressee. The interface between NTS and ARES lies in liaison function between local nets and other NTS nets, particularly at the section level. I encourage all traffic handlers to participate in some way in the SET - October 17-18.

I want to take this opportunity to promote a new book published by the ARRL which I recommend everyone to have on thier hamshack bookshelf for reference. The book I am talking about is the new ARRL OPERATING MANUAL (third edition). It is the size of and Handbook and about 1/2 as thick (684 pages) and is loaded with information on every aspect of Amateur Radio operating. For example, there are chapters on shortwave listening, basic operating, antennas, DXing, contests, awards (shown in color!), RTTY, packet, FM/Repeaters, VHF/UHF operating, satellites, emergency communications, TRAFFIC HANDLING, and image communications. The emergency communications chapter was written by our own Section Manager - Rich Regent, K9GDF. SUPER JOB RICH! There are tables of sunrise/sunset times for every month for all parts of the world, prefix maps, DXCC lists, WAS lists, county lists, USSR oblasts, descriptions of league Field Appointments, azimuth maps, propagation tables, and much, much more! The cost is \$15 and it is worth every cent - believe me!! See it at your nearest dealer or contact Rich Regent, K9GDF or ARRL headquarters for your copy.

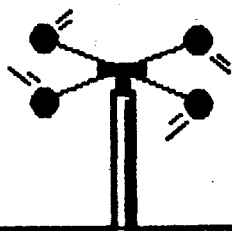
Well, I finally made it. I am now up and running on packet. I am using an A.E.A. PK232 and it is on 24 hours a day. So if you want to leave a message feel free to do so. I will be glad to hear from you. If you are "net active" and also on packet, please let me know via Radiogram so I can add you to the growing list of "TRAFFIC PACKETEERS".

By the time you read this, the quarterly meeting/annual picnic of the Wisconsin Nets Association will be history. It was nice seeing those of you who were able to attend. It would have been nice to have seen more of you there though. It is the only time that Net Managers, (continued on page 15)

## Amateur / weather hobbyists!

**Build your own wind speed indicator from easy to locate parts. Easy to follow instructions. Send \$5.00 to:**

North Wind Ideas  
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Menomonie, WI 54751





# THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association (WAPR)  
P.O. Box 436 Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012-0436

## Packet Conference Scheduled....

The fall RivLan Packet Conference has been scheduled for Saturday, October 17 beginning at 10 a.m. The Conference will be held at the Nob Hill Restaurant, Onalaska, Wisc. The restaurant is located in north Onalaska on hwy 35/53. For more information, contact Kent - W9LZQ @ W9LZQ-1.

## AG9V BBS Log Statistics.....

I thought you might be interested in the BBS log statistics for August. There were 504 connects to the system, totalling 3118 minutes. That's 7.7% of the available time. There were 9 file uploads and 31 file downloads. A total of 246 messages were entered, mostly bulletins received from WB9TYT. 154 messages were forwarded, mostly bulletins to W8OLE and N9BKJ, although 31 messages, all of them "real" traffic, were forwarded to WB9TYT for distribution to wherever..

The busiest day was August 3, with 42 connects. The busiest hour of the day, on average, was a tie between 0200 and 0300 UTC. The quietest hours were 0700 and 0800 UTC. The vast bulk of messages forwarded went out 0600, with 1300 a distant second. NO messages were forwarded between 0000 and 0600UTC, as the Wisconsin BBSs disable forwarding during the peak evening hours.

## Tips For Using A NET/ROM Node:

Anything typed after a command is sent to a node may abort the command. So while waiting for a circuit to be established with the CONNECT command DO NOT send any additional characters unless you want to abort the command.

When you have finished a QSO, issue a normal DISCconnect from your TNC's Command mode to break down the entire circuit.

Try checking the quality of the link to the next node BEFORE connecting to it as follows:

- 1) Connect to the NET/ROM node.
- 2) Type N for a listing of the nodes available from that node.
- 3) If the node you would like to connect to is on the list, type N (space) followed by the call sign or NODE NAME of that node. NET/ROM will respond with the callsign, ROUTE QUALITY, OBSOLESCENCE COUNTER, and PORT NUMBER. If the symbol ">" appears before the callsign, it indicates that the route is in use (and therefore, that at least SOME packets are getting through!!). ROUTE QUALITY reflects the quality of the link (192 is best for 145.01, and 0 is worst). OBSOLESCENCE COUNTER tells how current the information is (6 means very current, 5 means recent; a lower number means the link

is either very poor or has disappeared). DO NOT, REPEAT, DO NOT attempt to connect with a node if the OBSOLESCENCE COUNTER is less than 5!!! PORT NUMBER is 0 for a radio link and 1 for a direct wire connection.

Example: Possible responses to typing N KEC (route to Milwaukee)

WA9KEC 192 6 0 <-- indicates a good link to KEC

>WA9KEC 192 6 0 <-- indicates a good link IN USE to KEC

WA9KEC 192 4 0 <-- indicates a good link to KEC existed some time ago, but may have disappeared

WA9KEC 108 6 0 <-- indicates a poor link to KEC

WA9KEC 108 4 0 <-- indicates a poor link to KEC existed some time ago, but may have disappeared

WA9KEC 0 4 0 <-- indicates NO LINK -- DO NOT USE!!!

## Suggested HF Packet Guidelines.....

Below are some suggested "Rules" for HF packet operation. Many newcomers to HF packet (and a few oldtimers too) seem to be unaware of the problems they are causing because of poor operating procedures and practices on HF packet. With the tremendous increase in the numbers of HF packeteers the already overcrowded packet channels on 20 meters will become almost useless unless we all cooperate and try to follow some of these basic "Rules".

1) Do not call CQ or conduct QSOs on 14107 & 14109. This is especially important on 14107 where the BBS stations in ASIANET forward message traffic and bulletins between Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and the U.S. mainland. Packet QSOs may take place on 14103, 105, and 111. If you see someone on 14107 or 109 that you want to work move them to one of the other frequencies after you connect with them. Sysops should give only limited privileges to users on HF unless they request a higher status. BBS users should avoid downloading very large files on HF.

2) Do not run a beacon on HF packet unless you are a BBS or Gateway. BBS and Gateway stations should Beacon no more than every 15 minutes but every 30 minutes would be even better. Active BBS and Gateways need not send any beacons.

3) Do not attempt to digipeat on HF packet unless absolutely necessary. Sometimes propagation conditions necessitate digipeating when no direct path is possible. Keep packets and QSOs

short while digipeating on HF. Avoid digipeating when other stations are using the frequency. Avoid using the frequency when you observe stations in the digipeat mode. All the above should prevent "DIG-AGONY" (My term) from setting in, HI!

4) Maximum transfer of information occurs when just two stations occupy a frequency. The maximum number of stations that an HF packet channel can support with reasonable throughput is four (4). With this in mind, HF stations should never try to work more than one station at a time in a multi-connected mode. Also, always monitor the frequency for a few seconds before you make your call to make sure it is not being used by others. Listen with your ear as well as your TNC!

5) Suggested parameters for most efficient operation are: Maxframe 1, Frack 3, & Paclen of 32 to 64.

6) Avoid testing and experimenting on 14107 and 14109.

7) Use 15 or 10 meters if possible (There are already several BBS on these bands).

8) Have Fun!

If everyone follows the above suggestions as closely as possible HF packet will be much more enjoyable for all!

Yours for digital delight, Dan Van Hoy, NV7L/DU9---Davao City, Philippines

## Help wanted:

WA9FZQ in Madison is looking for information on how to interface a TNC to his Tono EXL-5000E CW/RTTY keyboard unit. Has anyone out there done it?

## Net/Rom At NF9R

NF9R IS NOW SET UP FOR Net/Rom operation with the following configuration:

145.01 NF9R-1 alias SHE (Sheboygan County WI.)  
145.09 NF9R-3 SHE3  
446.10 NF9R-2 SHE2

The rig running on 145.09 has a slow squelch, so it might not work with a fastTX Delay setting until I get that fixed.

I do need to obtain some 32K ram chips types 43256 or 62256, if you know anyone in the Milwaukee area who sells them please let me know.

Right now the cross-channel links are running at 4800 baud, but I plan to boost that up to 9600 as soon as I can get the parts.

If anyone has any suggestions send them to me @ WD9DHI BBS.

73'S and Good Packeting. Al

(continued on page 3)

It's helpful if you start at the bottom -- except to learn to swim.



WNA (continued from page 13)  
delegates, traffic handlers and Section League Officials get together face-to-face to discuss net operations. The other three quarterly meetings are held on the air in December, March and June. Everyone is welcome to participate in these meetings. Your input is important!

Last, but not least, remember to read the "UNIVERSAL TRAFFIC QUERIES" column elsewhere in this issue of Smoke Signals. This is a monthly column which is really a course in traffic handling. It will cover virtually every "nook and cranny" of traffic handling and net operation. Must reading for all traffic handlers - past, present, and future. I especially encourage those of you who have been a bit skeptical about getting involved with traffic nets to take the time to read this monthly column. It is aimed to rid you of any misgivings that traffic handling is only for the older experienced operator - NOT SO. Look it over and I am sure you will realize that it is not only easy but it is FUN! And, more importantly, you are providing a service by handling traffic which is the main reason you have all those privileges that you enjoy in Amateur Radio.

Till next time, see you on the nets and 73.

#### UNIVERSAL TRAFFIC QUESTIONS

As you recall, in last month's column, I touched on the "roots" or history of the National Traffic System and how it evolved into what it is today.

This month, I will discuss the basic structure of the National Traffic System.

#### WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM?

The NTS plan is a means for systemizing amateur traffic handling facilities by making available a structure for an integrated traffic facility designed to achieve the utmost in two principal objectives:

1. Rapid movement of traffic from origin to destination.
2. Training of Amateur Operators in handling of written traffic and participating in directed nets.

It is organized on the basis of daily operation. In emergency situations, NTS is geared to go into continuous operation in accordance with the needs and extent of the particular emergency encountered. The NTS operates sequentially and according to a flow chart. It consists of nets at four levels and a Transcontinental Corps (TCC).

#### LOCAL NETS

Let's start at the bottom of the ladder - which, incidentally, is just as important as the top level. These are the LOCAL NETS which cover a small geographical area such as several counties and is operated on VHF/UHF circuits. While NTS operated on a daily basis, 365 days a year, the LOCAL nets often operate only once per week, and so are not as regular a facility as are other nets of the system. However, they do provide much needed outlets to areas not served by HF nets because of license class or other reasons. They allow a Technician licensee to

participate in traffic nets and build a strong foundation so if and when he/she gets a higher class license with more HF privileges, they are already well groomed in the traffic handling scheme. Now, with the new Novice Enhancement, even they can participate in UHF nets. So, in addition to providing outlets that are often lacking on the HF nets, the LOCAL nets also provide a "training ground" for entry level licensees to get the feel of net operating and traffic handling.

There are two such nets in Wisconsin:

Northwoods Traffic Net  
- .34/.94 - 6:30 PM Daily  
West Central Wisconsin Traffic Net  
- .31/.91 - 6 PM Daily

#### SECTION NETS

Moving up the ladder to the next level of NTS net we have the SECTION nets. As the name implies, these nets cover a Section or State. There are 74 ARRL sections and each has one or more of these nets. In Wisconsin they are as follows:

BADGER WEATHER NET - 0500 M-S 3.985 MHZ  
BADGER EMERGENCY NET - 1200 DAILY 3.985 MHZ  
WISCONSIN SSB NET - 1730 DAILY 3.985 MHZ  
WISCONSIN NOVICE NET - 1800 DAILY 3.723 MHZ  
WISCONSIN SLOW SPEED - 1830 DAILY 3.745 MHZ  
WISC INTRASTATE/EARLY - 1900 DAILY 3.662 MHZ  
WISC INTRASTATE/LATE - 2200 DAILY 3.662 MHZ

ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL

In the past, trial runs of RTTY traffic nets have been tried but propagation at that time did not cooperate very well. So, that mode was put to rest for a while. However, there is a possibility that another attempt will be made this fall and winter. Watch for details.

#### REGION NETS

Up yet another level are the REGION nets. These nets cover a larger area such as a time zone or call area. For example, the NINTH REGION NET encompasses the WISCONSIN, ILLINOIS, INDIANA and KENTUCKY sections. The NINTH REGION (9RN) net is held four times daily. The phone nets are in the daytime on 7.283 MHZ at 1845Z and 2200Z. The evening CW nets are on 3.640 MHZ at 0145Z and 0330Z. REGION nets can only be checked into by designated liaison stations. Each REGION net session is represented by the following:

1. Net Control Station
2. Reps from each of the SECTIONS within the REGION
3. One or more stations assigned as liaisons to take traffic outside the REGION (via AREA nets).
4. One or more stations with traffic for some point within the REGION but outside his/her SECTION.

The primary purpose of the REGION net is to exchange traffic among the SECTIONS in the REGION, put out-of-region traffic in the hands of stations so designated to handle it, and to distribute traffic coming into the REGION from outside among the SECTIONS reps.

#### AREA NETS

The highest level of NTS net is the AREA net. There are three AREAS (generally following time zones). They are the EASTERN, CENTRAL and PACIFIC areas.

The CENTRAL AREA net is comprised of stations from the FIFTH, NINTH and TENTH REGIONS.

Participation in these nets is again, only by designated stations as follows:

1. Net Control Station.
2. Reps from each REGION in the AREA.
3. Stations designated to handle traffic TO other AREAS.
4. Stations bringing traffic FROM other AREAS.
5. Stations with traffic for points within the AREA but not their respective REGIONS.

The CENTRAL AREA NET meets twice daily:

2030 Z on 14.332 MHZ and  
0230 Z on 3.670 MHZ

Listen in on these nets when you can to see just how they operate. Perhaps sometime you will be needed to fill a void as a REGION liaison station.

#### TRANSCONTINENTAL CORPS

The handling of inter-AREA traffic is the job of the TRANSCONTINENTAL CORPS (TCC).

The TCC is not a net as such, but a group of designated stations who have responsibility for seeing to it that inter-AREA traffic reaches its destination AREA.

Next month, I will discuss how traffic flows from one level of NTS to the other.

Till then, CU on the nets. 73

Gene Santoski, K9UTQ  
Section Traffic Mgr.

#### MORE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Net/Rom Illegal In VK & Maybe UK.....

Net/Roms that were used in VK2 by APRAA have had to be taken out of service as they do not meet the DOC station identification requirements. Whilst these units were in use and after the teething problems, the reports were all praise for them. Rumour has it that they have the same problem in UK.. It is a pity that the Manufacturer in USA is reluctant in anyway to support VK stations using his product and appears now that he has made a sale and got his cash he no longer wants to support or assist in the use of his product.

Brian - VK4AHD

KAM Info Needed.....

I need help from someone who is using the Kantronics KAM All Mode... I have some problems that no one seems to be able to help me with and also some basic questions for using it on RTTY.

Greg - KA9VII

They are now making coffee dispensers for offices that look like filing cabinets -- for coffee drinkers that look like workers.



# Unusual Trivia Quiz



By Gene Santoski, K9UTQ  
1220 18th Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494

## QUIZ NO. 9 IN A SERIES OF 12

1. What is the most distant part of a satellite earth orbit called?
2. What does QRO stand for?
3. What do the letters RSGB represent?
4. In what month is the ARRL Sweepstakes held?
5. What instrument is used to check the resonant frequency of an antenna? (two possible answers)
6. What is the call-letter prefix of Saudi Arabia?
7. The formula for conductance in a DC circuit is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The 10 meter Novice subband is 28.0 to 28.5 - True or False?

9. On what frequency does the Wisconsin SSB Net operate?
10. What is the grid square for Wisconsin Rapids?

Please submit your answers to K9UTQ. After three more quizzes have been published, a prize will be awarded to whom-ever has submitted the most correct answers. The answers to the September quiz are on page 7.

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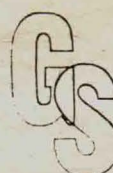
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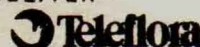


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